

WAITING FOR AUDIENCE

《等待观众》

HOUSE PROGRAMME

by Nine Years Theatre

30 May, Fri
8pm

31 May, Sat
3pm & 8pm

SOTA Drama Theatre

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Audience,

2025 is momentous year for the Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA). It is a year where history, artistry and imagination converge—a year where Singapore celebrates 60 years of independence.

As Singapore continues to shape and strengthen its identity as a nation, SIFA 2025 offers a presentation that showcases the originality, imagination, and quality of Singapore arts. This year's theme of More Than Ever is a statement that Singapore arts has never been more vital, more bold, more dynamic. Set against the backdrop of the nation's SG60 celebrations, the festival stands as testament to how far we have come.

FULL MESSAGE



Sharon Tan

MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

In a world constricted by the rhetoric of divide, **More Than Ever**, we need to resist limiting binaries and relate to each other with fluidity and in nuance, always cultivating pluralism and the multiplicity of experience. We need to uphold the station of the Arts as a vital space in society that explores differences in opinions, accepts otherness and maintains the past, present and future as entities that perpetually influence and shape each other, engendering new narratives on a supple timeline that moves forwards, cyclically or in any imaginable configuration.

FULL MESSAGE



Natalie Hennedige

About the Production

Waiting For Audience

An old theatre reaches its last performance night.
Two actors—A and O—find themselves sharing the stage.
They bicker,
they compete,
they create,
they wonder,
and they

wait...

and wait,

and wait.

"We exist because they exist."
"Every play has a beginning / And an end / Life is the same."

But will the audience ever come?

Playful yet meaningful, *Waiting for Audience* challenges us to rethink the bond between performers and spectators, drawing inspiration from physical theatre, clowning, absurdist humour and Chinese crosstalk.

Waiting for Audience invites us to step into the story and play a key role in completing a unique theatre experience, to join in the celebration of the power of live performance to connect what is on and off stage. Don't miss this bold creation by Nine Years Theatre founders Nelson Chia and Mia Chee.

《等待观众》
一座老旧的剧院迎来了它的最后一夜。
两个演员，A 和 O，同时出现在舞台。
他们争吵，
他们较量，
他们创作，
他们开始思考，
然后他们

等待...

等待，

再等待。

"我们的存在，是因为他们存在。"
"每场戏都有个开始 / 也有个结束 / 生命也一样。"

可是，观众会来吗？

这部诙谐又深刻的作品融合形体剧场、小丑元素、荒诞幽默以及传统相声的灵感，挑战观众重新思考演员与观众之间的联系。

《等待观众》邀请你走进故事，成为这个独特剧场体验的重要部分。
让我们一起享受通过现场表演彼此连结的感觉。
由「九年剧场」创始人，谢燊杰与徐山淇倾心呈献，不容错过的大胆创作！

**Message
from
Nelson, Mia**
樂杰，山淇

Theatre is a wonderful thing — or perhaps one might say, it's a magical phenomenon.

The essence of art lies in questioning, and the spirit of performance lies in creating belief. To fully enter a story, the audience chooses a willing suspension of disbelief, consciously setting aside all doubts. Within that slender space between belief and skepticism lies the playground of imagination.

Performers dare to be mad, and audiences brave enough to believe.
It is precisely this unspoken pact of madness and bravery that allows theatre to unleash its boundless magic. Even more wondrously, theatre gathers strangers together in the same space, where they breathe together, feel together, moved by the same vibrations.
A sigh, a burst of laughter, a collective held breath; in that moment, we cease being isolated individuals and become interconnected beings. This shared experience not only breaks down barriers between people, but awakens within us the capacity for empathy, understanding, and acceptance.

Yet all this requires openness and generosity —
the courage to absorb, reflect, and embrace different ideas;
the willingness to hear others' stories and the eagerness to be moved.

At NYT, we continue questioning everything, playing wildly;
we keep waiting for our audience to arrive,
because we firmly believe a society enriched by art is a better place.

This, is the power of theatre, and the true value of art.

Nelson, Mia



Nelson, Mia
樂杰，山淇

剧场是个奇妙的东西，又或者说，它是一个魔幻的现象。

艺术的本质是提问，表演的精髓是创造信念。
为了投入故事，观众选择相信，也因此甘心放下所有的怀疑。
信念与质疑之间的这条缝隙，即是想象的乐园。

都说演戏的是疯子，看戏的是傻子。
在疯癫与糊涂的无形契约下，剧场散发了无穷的魔力。而更奇妙的是——
剧场让一群陌生人共处一室，
在同一个空间里呼吸、感受、被相同的震动触动。
一声叹息，一阵笑声，一个停顿的呼吸；
在那一刻，我们不再是孤单的个体，而是彼此连接的存在。
这份集体的经验，不只打破了人与人之间的隔阂，
也唤起了我们对共感、理解与包容的能力。

而这一切，需要的是豁达，开放的情怀——
一种无惧吸收、自省、拥抱不同想法，
愿意聆听他人的故事，也期待受感动的心态。

在九年，我们不断质问一切，疯狂玩耍；
我们继续等待观众的到来，
只因为，我们坚信有艺术的社会，更加美好。

这，就是剧场的力量，艺术的价值。

蔡杰，山淇

Highlights



SIFA 2025 | Waiting For Audience by Nine Years Theatre | Trailer



Arts House Limited
Organises

2025
singapore
international
festival of
arts

MORE THAN EVER

16 MAY – 1 JUNE

**WAITING FOR
AUDIENCE**

NINE YEARS THEATRE (SG)
30 & 31 May
SOTA DRAMA THEATRE

Watch on  YouTube

Trailer: *Waiting for Audience* 《等待观众》

Credits

Creative Team

Producer & Cast:
Mia Chee 徐山淇

Director, Playwright & Cast:
Nelson Chia 谢樂杰

Spatial & Lighting Designer:
Emanorwatty Saleh

Sound Designer:
Ng Jing 黄劲

Key Visual Design:
Ryan Loi 黎志誠

Production Team

Production Manager:
Lam Dan Fong 林丹凤
(The Backstage Affair)

Set & Lighting Coordinator:
Jed Lim

Stage Manager & Surtitlist:
Tennie Su 苏蜜媽

Assistant Stage Manager:
Kareen Low 刘凯欣
(The Backstage Affair)

Crew:
Wong Yun Jie 温韵洁

Props Master:
Cheow Jiong Ling 周炯伶
(The Backstage Affair)

Associate Sound Designer:
Ryan Ng 黄雋轩

Sound Operator No. 1:
Meng Jiao Yang 孟骄阳

Wardrobe Crew:
Olivia Yi-Le Hatton 亦乐

Lighting Programmer:
Tan Yi Kai 陈亦愷

Company Team

Admin Manager:
Kwah Wei Ting 柯玮婷

Senior Marketing Executive:
Sunny Liu 刘桑旋

Marketing & Outreach Executive:
Chew Yi Hui 周怡慧

Intern:
Jenelle Yap 叶芷婷

Recording Acknowledgements:

Johnny Ng
Jean Yap
Jael Chew
Agam Theatre Lab

Pangdemonium Theatre Company
Teater Ekamatra
The Necessary Stage

Biographies

Nine Years Theatre

COMPANY



An award-winning Singapore Mandarin theatre company, Nine Years Theatre (NYT) is dedicated to the creation...

[FULL BIO](#)

Nelson Chia 谢燊杰

PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR 编剧/导演



Nelson Chia is an acclaimed director, performer, playwright, and acting teacher. A six-time winner at the...

[FULL BIO](#)

Mia Chee 徐山淇

PRODUCER 监制



Mia Chee is an actor, theatre producer, and educator with over 20 years of professional experience...

[FULL BIO](#)

Emanorwatty Saleh

LIGHTING & SPATIAL DESIGNER

灯光 & 空间设计

Emanorwatty began her love for theater in 1992. Her first major work as a lighting designer was for...

FULL BIO

Ng Jing 黄劲

SOUND DESIGNER 音效

Awarded the National Arts Council Scholarship, Jing graduated with first class honours from Rose Bruford College (U.K.)...

FULL BIO

About SIFA

As Singapore's annual pinnacle performing arts festival, the Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA) presents captivating and diverse works across theatre, music, dance, film and visual arts. First launched as the Singapore Festival of Arts in 1977, the festival has gone through several evolutions and inspired generations of arts lovers and practitioners. Today, the highly anticipated festival is a high point on Singapore's arts and cultural calendar. SIFA continues its festival mission to champion the creation and presentation of Singaporean and international works.

About Arts House Limited

Arts House Limited (AHL) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to enriching lives through the transformative power of the arts. As a key part of Singapore's arts and cultural landscape, AHL presents the nation's two flagship festivals – the **Singapore International Festival of Arts** and the **Singapore Writers Festival** – and oversees six key arts venues: **The Arts House at the Old Parliament, Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall, Drama Centre**, and the creative hubs **Goodman Arts Centre, Aliwal Arts Centre**, and **Stamford Arts Centre**.

AHL fosters artistic excellence at all stages of an artist's journey, offering dynamic spaces for practice, presentation and exchange – empowering artists to create, express, collaborate and connect with diverse audiences. Through artist tenancies, commissions, festivals and public programmes, we champion Singapore's creative talents while fostering meaningful audience engagement and shared experiences across communities. **Our Cultural Medallion Story** also honours the nation's most accomplished artists, celebrating their enduring contributions to the arts.

For more information, visit <https://artshouselimited.sg/>.

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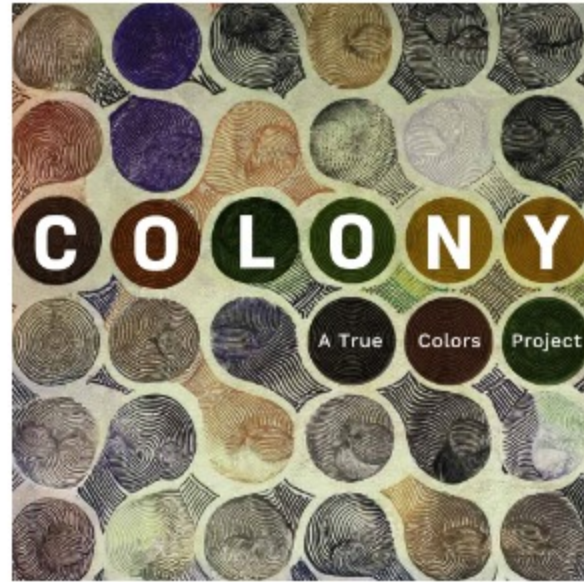
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Recommended Shows



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stray gods



Hossan-AH! In The High Arts

Acknowledgements

SIFA Advisory Panel (2025 – 2027)

Sharon Tan
Professor Kwok Kian Woon

Beatrice Chia-Richmond
Jamie Ho
Dr Samuel Wong

Executive Director
Sharon Tan

Festival Director
Natalie Hennedige

Programming & Producing

Sim Wan Hui
Ye Junmin

Christie Chua
Mervyn Quek

Lisa Lip

Festival Production & Technical

Victoria Lim
Chan Silei
Celestine Wong

Melissa Chin
Chong Weenee
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